

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 SY-05

AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

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EUR/WE:MR. BARBOUR

S/S - JMEALUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH,HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMCITS

REF: DAR 1748; KINSHASA 4413

1. DEPARTMENT WOULD PREFER THAT INTERMEDIARY WITH KID-
NAPPERS BE A NON-AMERICAN WHO IS FAVORABLY KNOWN TO PRP
GROUP, SPEAKS THEIR LANGUAGE AND KNOWS THE AREA. SUCH A
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PERSON PRESUMABLY, ASSUMING APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATE GOVERN-

MENTS COULD BE OBTAINED, COULD MEET KIDNAPPERS ON THEIR HOME GROUND, ASSURE HIMSELF THAT CAPTIVES ARE STILL WELL, PERHAPS HAVE GREATER INFLUENCE IN PERSUADING PRP TO

RELEASE STUDENTS AND, IF NECESSARY, MAKE ARRANGEMENT ON SPOT FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.

2. AT SAME TIME WE DO NOT WANT TO REJECT OUT-OF-HAND ANY INTERMEDIARY WHO HAS CONFIDENCE OF STANFORD OFFICIALS, SMUTS FAMILY AND AMBASSADOR CARTER. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO AVERT ANY POSSIBLE RASH, TRAGIC ACTION ON PART OF CAPTORS.

3. BEFORE ANY DECISION REGARDING STEINER IS MADE DEPT

WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INDICATION FROM EMBASSY RE MECHANICS OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH PRP REPS AND ASSURING STEINER'S SAFETY. HOW WOULD PRP BE INFORMED OF STEINER'S DESIRE TO MEET WITH THEM, AND HOW WOULD WE KNOW WHETHER MEETING, INCLUDING SITE, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO PRP? IF PROPOSED LOCALE OF MEETING IS IN BURUNDI, WE ASSUME THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL GRB APPROVAL AS WELL AS ASSURANCES OF SAFE PASSAGE FROM GRB AND GOZ FOR PRP REPS. EMBASSIES BUJUMBURA AND KINSHASA RESPECTIVELY ARE REQUESTED TO COMMENT ON LIKELIHOOD OF THESE ASSURANCES BEING GRANTED. ARE THERE ANY OTHER POSSIBLE SITES? IF MEETING IS HELD, DOES STEINER HAVE SUFFICIENT FRENCH TO HANDLE CONVERSATIONS? IF NOT, HOW WOULD INTERPRETATION BE HANDLED?

4. EVEN IF WE WERE TO AGREE TO USE OF STEINER TO MAKE INITIAL CONTACT WE THINK IT MIGHT WELL BE DESIRABLE TO FIND APPROPRIATE NON-AMERICAN TO HANDLE LONGER NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD SUCH BE REQUIRED. INDEED, THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE ITEMS WHICH WE WOULD WANT STEINER TO ASSESS, I.E., HIS VIEWS ON WHAT TYPE OF INDIVIDUAL COULD BEST BRING ANY DIALOGUE TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

5. IN ADDITION TO RECEIVING ASSURANCES OF CAPTIVES' WELL-CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING, A PRIMARY PURPOSE OF INITIAL CONTACT WOULD BE TO LET ABDUCTORS KNOW OF OUR CONTINUING CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND OF CONCURRENCE OF ALL CONCERNED (STUDENTS' FAMILIES, STANFORD UNIVERSITY, US AND DUTCH GOVTS. AND INTERESTED AFRICAN GOVTS.) IN THE INITIATION OF A DIALOGUE TO SECURE SAFE RELEASE OF CAPTIVES.

6. AT INITIAL MEETING INTERMEDIARY SHOULD APPEAL TO

HUMANITARIAN INSTINCTS OF PRP TO RELEASE INNOCENT YOUNG PEOPLE, STRESSING THAT SUCH ACT, ADDED TO PUBLICITY ORGANIZATION HAS ALREADY RECEIVED, WOULD RESULT IN FAVORABLE WORLD REACTION. IF SUCH APPROACH IS UNSUCCESSFUL - AND ADMITTEDLY IT IS SCANTY DIET - THE INTERMEDIARY SHOULD SEEK COUNTER-OFFER FROM KIDNAPPERS AND THEIR VIEWS AS TO HOW DIALOGUE CAN BEST BE CONTINUED.

7. BEFORE DECISION RE STEINER, REQUEST EMBASSY KINSHASA MAKE PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITHOUT COMMITMENT, WITH MONSGNR. CATARZI RE UNDERTAKING TASK OR SUGGESTING SOMEONE WHO MIGHT. ALFRED CAHEN, BELGIAN EMBASSY MINISTER HERE WHO KNOWS CATARZI, BELIEVES HE WOULD BE USEFUL, RELIABLE INTERMEDIARY. SUGGEST CONTACT ALSO BE MADE WITH NSENGIYUMVA. WHOEVER GOES, OF COURSE, SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO STUDENTS' PARENTS.

8. DEPT. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY THOUGHTS FROM ADDRESSEES AS TO WHETHER WE HAVE SUFFICIENTLY EXPLORED WAYS IN WHICH DUTCH GOVT. MIGHT BE HELPFUL. WE ASSUME THAT EMBASSIES DAR AND KINSHASA ARE ON THE ALERT FOR SUCH POSSIBILITIES IN THEIR CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THEIR DUTCH COLLEAGUES. INGERSOLL

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